

# Gateshead SEND Network News

Issue 2 | March 2021

## Hello!

Welcome to the second issue of the Gateshead SEND Network Newsletter. In Gateshead we aim to put children and young people with SEND and their families at the heart of everything we do, and this newsletter aims to provide valuable information around the SEND services available to you. We value your feedback and to help us improve our newsletter we have created a short survey which you can access by [clicking here](#).

Thank you for your continued support and interest in Gateshead's SEND services and the children, families, and Young People we work with.

## Gateshead SEND Local Offer

Gateshead has a fantastic new SEND Local Offer website. The Gateshead SEND Local Offer brings together information for children and young people aged from 0-25 years with special educational needs and disabilities and their families.

Acting on feedback from users of the original Local Offer site, Gateshead Council's SEND team have

redesigned the website in consultation with young people and their families across the local area. The new site is designed to be more user friendly, more accessible and easier to navigate.

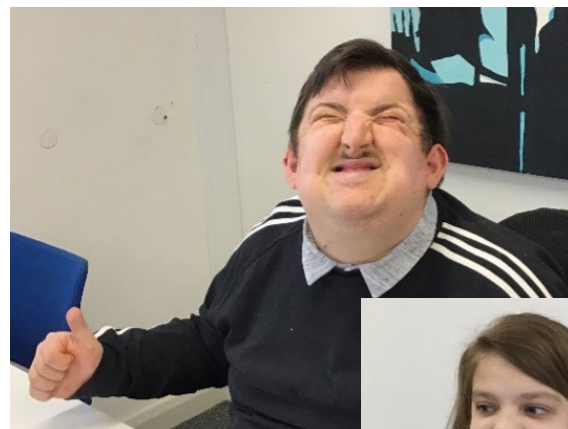
Go to [www.gateshead-localoffer.org](http://www.gateshead-localoffer.org) to access Gateshead's new SEND Local Offer site. You can also keep up to date by following the Gateshead SEND Local Offer [Facebook page](#)

## Happy News from Gateshead

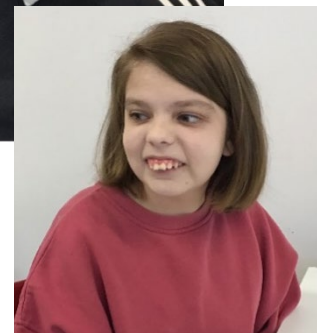
The covid pandemic and subsequent lockdown have significantly altered our way of life, and these changes have had a negative impact upon the mental health of many of us. In order to help them stay positive, students from Gateshead Learning Skills Words and Numbers group have created their own 'Happy News' newsletter.

'We wanted to make a happy newsletter for people to look at and to feel cheered up,' say the group. 'We have included some good news stories from our Dryden Centre, and a music playlist that will help you feel happy. We have thought about things that make us feel happy too.'

You can read the Happy Newsletter by clicking here: [Happy-News-1.pdf](#)



*Fran and Matthew were both involved in creating the 'Happy News' Newsletter*



# The Gateshead Children, Young People and Families Team

The Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group (NGCCG) team has recently evolved with the addition of new specialist staff including two SEND nurses, two project officers and a SEND administrator.

These changes have allowed the group to invest even more time and resources into supporting children, young people and families across Gateshead as well as carrying on with all of their existing projects.

The Newcastle Gateshead CCG's main areas of focus are:

- Sick and injured children;
- Early years and prevention;
- Maternity services;
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

For more information on services available to you, visit [NHS Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group](#), phone: 0191 217 2996, or email: [ngccg.cypfgh@nhs.net](mailto:ngccg.cypfgh@nhs.net)

## Teenage Resource: We'd Like to Hear Your Ideas!

Do you know how to access local health services? How to find health and wellbeing information when you need it? Do you know what your rights are as a young person? We know that health services can be confusing. That's why we're asking young people (aged 13 – 25) in Gateshead to tell us what information you would find helpful – as well as the best way to share it.

We think it would be good to share advice and support on things like mental health, body image, weight problems, bullying, alcohol, drugs and smoking. But we'd like to hear your ideas too.

This could lead to us producing a booklet, a magazine, an app, a website, or something completely different. By completing our short survey, you can help us make the right choice. To access the surveys, follow these links:

**Young people:** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GHYPsurvey>

**Professionals:** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GHHPsurvey>

**Parent / Carers:** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WT2BPC3>

Or scan these QR codes:



Health Professionals' Survey



Young Person's Survey



Parent Carer Survey



# Independent Living in Gateshead

Deciding to move into your own home is a life-changing decision whatever your personal circumstances, but particularly for young people with SEND. Gateshead Council's Supported Living Service assists people with learning disabilities to live as independently as possible in accommodation which suits their individual needs.

Caroline O'Neil is the Strategic Director for Children, Adults and Families at Gateshead Council. "Most of us dream when we're younger about having a home of our own, but some people with SEND don't get the choice of where they live or who they live with. We want to put that right in Gateshead", says Caroline. "A person's disability should not be seen as the main factor when considering housing options. Rather, we should think about what they want in their life and to help them achieve that."



*Zoe lives in a transition support scheme which helps her to learn valuable independent living skills*

Zoe is in a transition support scheme which helps adults with additional needs learn independence skills. "What I like about living here is that it's relaxed", says Zoe. "You can get help from staff when you need it. This is a friendly place for everyone as it is safe, without stressful situations."

Karen's son has recently moved into Independent Living accommodation, and her initial fears for him were quickly relieved as he began to learn new independence skills: "I didn't want to put him into a situation where he failed because I didn't know what that would do to his self-esteem", says Karen. "He learned how to cook, how to clean, and he amazed us with what he could do. Look beyond your initial fears as a parent and think about the future, think 'what is best for this person?'".

More information for adults living in Gateshead with additional support needs can be found by viewing Gateshead Council's [Adult Social Care](#) site, emailing [adultsocialcaredirect@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:adultsocialcaredirect@gateshead.gov.uk) or phoning 0191 433 7033. Gateshead Council has made a film to illustrate the different types of Independent Living services available: [Independent Living in Gateshead Film](#)

## Useful links and resources:

**Gateshead Autism Information Hub** Facebook Group:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/387109345806360>


The **NHS Little Orange Book** contains advice and tips on how to manage common illnesses and problems that babies and young children often experience in the first five years of their lives:  
[NHS Little Orange Book - Gateshead Local Offer](#)

**Gateshead Psychological Service** has produced a Wellbeing Matters resource guide for parents, carers and school staff:  
[Wellbeing Matters \(educationgateshead.org\)](http://educationgateshead.org)

**National Autistic Society** page on autism and mental health:  
[Mental health \(autism.org.uk\)](http://autism.org.uk)

## Contact us

If you have any questions related to any of the above information or you would like to suggest any topics for future newsletters please email Gateshead Council's SEN Team:  
[senteam@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:senteam@gateshead.gov.uk)  
or the Newcastle Gateshead CCG:  
[ngccg.cypfgh@nhs.net](mailto:ngccg.cypfgh@nhs.net)

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